

Mar 12, 2022

Senator Winfield, Representative Stafstrom, distinguished members of the Joint Committee on the Judiciary. My name is Parishe Smith and I am a resident and community organizer in the Northend of Hartford.

I am writing **IN STRONG OPPOSITION** of bill [S.B. No. 16](#) AN ACT ADDRESSING GUN VIOLENCE AND JUVENILE CRIME

Section 31 aims to add motor vehicle crimes to the definition of **serious juvenile crime**. All this will do is lock up those who are actually in need of restorative intervention and continue to traumatize our young people. The Joint Judiciary Committee needs to realize that people don't steal cars because they want to. These young people are forced to live in an environment where people don't make enough money to meet their basic human needs, the education is low quality, there's little to no economic development and there's crazy amounts of gun violence. If I didn't know where my next meal was coming from, I'd consider stealing a car too. Yet, instead of trying to fix what's causing the issue, we are trying to lock these guys up. Do we actually want to make Connecticut safer for ALL RESIDENTS?

Section 32 is wanting to mandate mandatory GPS monitoring for all those who committed a motor vehicle crime who are awaiting their court date. The issue with this is that implementing this new system will cost taxpayers millions in equipment, training & etc. That money needs to be invested in 1) Economic Development so we are creating healthy environments that are producing people who contribute to society 2) EFFECTIVE prevention and intervention strategies to address risk factors we see in these folks before it becomes a big problem.

I urge you to KILL [S.B. No. 16](#) as it would cause a lot of harm if it were passed. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to testify today and feel free to reach out if you have any further questions.

Peace,

Parishe Smith

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